

Dr Barbara Shane
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Dear Dr Shane

National Toxicology Program - Nanoscale Gold

It is with great interest that we read in the Federal Register that the National Toxicology Program (NTP) Board of Scientific Counsellors plans to discuss nominations and testing activities related to nanoscale materials at its December 6, 2007 meeting. Since part of the focus of the intended review is in relation to the use of gold in nanotechnology, we thought it appropriate for World Gold Council (WGC) to make a representation on these matters.

As the global body responsible for promoting gold in all its uses, WGC has a dedicated interest in the development of new and emerging uses for gold. Specifically the GROW (Gold Research Opportunities Worldwide) Programme, run by WGC, is designed to identify and part-fund the exploration of such new uses. We also actively communicate new science and practical applications of gold to the technical community through our newsletters, conferences and journals.

Having read your paper thoroughly we would like to make the following observations:

- gold has unique properties that make it ideal for use in nanotechnology and in particular the medical applications of nanotechnology
- WGC believes that gold can play a key role in exciting new technologies which can assist humanity in its fight against disease and in combating pollution
- WGC recognises that many applications for gold-based nanotechnology are still at an emerging stage and as such, must be open to investigation
- We fully support efforts to encourage greater research into if and how gold can be used as a key agent in nanotechnology
- The planned programme is appearing to focus on silver and gold applications. Why are the platinum and palladium nanoscale applications in automotive emission control catalysts omitted from the scope of the study?

We would be delighted to understand if WGC can play a role in moving the debate forward for the benefit of society and would like to be kept informed of any developments in this arena.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dr. Richard Holliday', with a stylized, cursive script.

Dr. Richard Holliday

Head of Industrial Applications
World Gold Council